

'Ghost ships' still puzzle experts at missile base

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (Reuter) — Experts at a missile base here say they are puzzled about strange "ghost ships" picked up by powerful radar scanners in the Pacific during a tracking exercise last year.

There has been little official comment on what the scientists found. But Major Dallas van Hoose, the army's base spokesman, confirmed that "some unexplained aerial phenomena" were observed last August.

Scientists, many of whom are reluctant to be named in interviews because of general public scepticism concerning unidentified flying objects, say privately they have been unable to find an explanation for the "ghost ships."

"We have never seen anything precisely like this before," said one ballistic missile defence expert who works for

an army agency here and is familiar with the advanced radar used to test missiles and warheads.

Huntsville houses the army's ballistic missile defence systems command, which analyses results of missile test in the Kwajalein Atoll region of the Marshall Island Trust Territory held by the United States.

Last August, the air force launched a Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from Vandenburg Air Force Base aimed for the Kwajalein missile range, used by the army, air force and navy.

When the ICBM was screaming toward the Pacific test site, it began its descent on a normal, ballistic trajectory, scientists said.

The nose cone had separated from the third stage of the missile and was entering the at-

mosphere at 22,000 feet a second.

Radar scanners at Kwajalein and Meck Islands were tracking the nose cone routinely.

At about 400,000 feet, the radar experts in the Pacific found they also were tracking an unidentified flying object next to the ICBM's nose cone.

Radar picked up an inverted saucer-shaped object to the right and above the descending nose cone and watched it cross the warhead's trajectory to a point which was below and to the left of it before the phantom disappeared.

The ghost ship was described as being 10 feet high and 40 feet long.

So far, none of the experts believe the ghost ship was a natural phenomenon caused by freak weather conditions or echoes commonly seen on radar screens.

CASE #246[Image Render](#)

SOURCE URL

https://www.ufohastings.com/storage/files/image/2012-11-18/sask-star-phoenix-1974_07-17.png

DOMAIN

www.ufohastings.com

CASE ID

#246 of 924

CONTEXT FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

(PUBLIC DOMAIN) - 17 July 1974 — Maj. Dallas van Hoose, Army spokesman at Redstone Arsenal, states “unexplained aerial phenomena” were observed during ballistic missile exercises the previous year. In one incident in August 1973, he stated, Vandenberg AFB launched a Minuteman ICBM to Kwajalein missile range; on its descent at 400,000 feet, radar scanners began tracking a UAP next to the ICBM nose cone. Radar picked up an inverted saucer-shaped object to the right and above the nose cone, and watched it pass in front of the warhead (while maintaining its speed) below and to the left before disappearing. In addition to Maj. Hoose, none of the experts journalists spoke to could explain the event. Ufologist Barry Greenwood later stated he filed FOIA inquiries for records and Vandenberg replied that the records were destroyed and unavailable.

-